

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9653

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4904

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, NATO

SUBJ: ECONADS: MEETING OF HEADS OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

REF: USNATO 7031 (NOTAL)

1. ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE HAS JUST ISSUED PROPOSED AGENDA FOR
FEB 20-21 MEETING OF HEADS OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH (AC/127-D/502).
IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR MODIFYING PROPOSED AGENDA
(PARA 2 BELOW), MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE THEM IN TIME FOR JAN
23 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IF POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

PROPOSED AGENDA

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AS IN THE TWO PREVIOUS MEETINGS IT IS SUGGESTED THAT
THE DISCUSSION BEARS ON (I) POINTS OF GENERAL INTEREST, AND
(II) SPECIFIC ISSUES. THE ITEMS LISTED HEREAFTER ARE, OF
COURSE, TENTATIVE, AND ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS OR AMENDMENTS

ARE INVITED. THESE SHOULD REACH THE INT'L SECRETARIAT WITHIN EIGHT DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA COULD BE DEALT WITH IN ONE DAY AND THAT THE 21ST FEB COULD BE RESERVED FOR A VISIT TO SHAPE.

I. POINTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

(A) TO WHAT EXTENT ARE CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECOMING MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES? HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE?

(B) THERE IS A GREATER AWARENESS IN NATO OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DEFENCE AND DIPLOMACY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. THIS IS SHOWN BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 1974 AND THE ENSUING DECLARATION. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE AREA OF INTEREST FOR THE DIRECTORATE'S ACTIVITIES WILL, QUITE PROBABLY, HAVE TO BE EXTENDED. FOR INSTANCE IT MAY HAVE TO EXAMINE IN GREATER DEPTH PROBLEMS SUCH AS:

- THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN NORTH AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST, THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE INDIAN OCEAN;
- A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCES IN WESTERN ECONOMIES, THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE EFFECTS ON THE POLICIES OF THE AREAS CONCERNED.
- PERIODIC EVALUATION OF AVAILABILITY TO THE WEST, IN THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM, OF ENERGY (ESPECIALLY IMPORTED HYDRO-CARBONS). CERTAIN RAW MATERIALS AND BASIC FOODSTUFFS. THE ROLE OF STOCKS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF COMMODITIES MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

II. SPECIFIC ISSUES

(A) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TRADITIONAL SURVEY OF COMMUNIST ECONOMIES, IS THERE A NEED FOR SECTORIAL STUDIES
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(E.G. THE COAL INDUSTRY IN POLAND, THE STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE USSR, ETC)?

(B) THE EVALUATION OF THE SOVIET DEFENCE BURDEN, POSSIBLY BY REFERENCE TO YARDSTICKS OTHER THAN THE DEFENCE VOTE ONLY.

(C) THE ENERGY PATTERN AND PROBLEMS IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. (C) THE STUDY OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. (ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE PAST, IS IT THE FEELING THAT SUCH EXERCISES ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES? IF SO ON WHAT PROCEDURE SHOULD SUCH EXAMINATION BE ESTABLISHED?) (E) THE RECENT EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIES OF BULGARIA,

RUMANIA AND POLAND ONCE MORE BROUGHT OUT THE UNCERTAINTY OF WESTERN ESTIMATES OF GNP OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. A SPECIAL MEETING IS TO BE HELD IN 1975 ON THAT PARTICULAR MATTER. AN INPUT FROM AS MANY CAPITALS AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

(F) ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SOVIET STOCKS OF FOODSTUFFS (ESPECIALLY GRAINS) AND OTHER CRITICAL COMMODITIES.

(G) THE USE THE SOVIET UNION IS LIKELY TO MAKE OF ITS INCREASED FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POWER IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE COMECON, THE THIRD WORLD, TO COUNTRIES AND THE WEST GENERALLY. (WILL THE SOVIET UNION BE LESS RELUCTANT THAN IN THE PAST TO JOIN CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ADHERE TO INT'L AGREEMENTS ON COMMODITIES?)

(H) ONE OF THE MAIN TASKS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE IS THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE FLOW OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE, THROUGH THE DELEGATIONS, IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF THE EXCHANGES IN THE COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION TO BASIC INFORMATION, IT IS THE EVALUATION OF SPECIFIC SITUATIONS WHICH IS OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO THE ALLIANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, INPUTS FROM DELEGATIONS ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR THE WORK OF THE INT'L SECRETARIAT.

(I) A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE SPENT A FEW WEEKS WITH THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS EXPERIENCE IT WOULD SEEM THAT IT WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL IF THESE VISITORS WERE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE A SPECIFIC TASK IN THE CONTEXT OF A PRE-ARRANGED PROJECT. INVERSELY, IT IS FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER THE CAPITALS WOULD BE PREPARED TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDIES, FOR SHORT PERIODS, TO WORK ALONGSIDE THEIR OWN EXPERTS IN THE PREPARATION OF CERTAIN STUDIES WHICH, ULTIMATELY, WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

III. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH HEADS OF INTELLIGENCE MIGHT WISH TO RAISE

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME FOR 21ST FEBRUARY, 1975

(1) BRIEFING BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO SHAPE.

END TEXT

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